

As is clear from the language of the legislation, the requirement for interconnection is for purposes of 911 only and should not be used to bootstrap access for other reasons. Similarly, the legislation makes clear that those who control the legacy gateways to the emergency communications system must provide access, including rights of interconnection, to those seeking to deliver 911 calls and information. Because all stakeholders agreed to the legislative language, we fully expect that this access will not be inhibited by either delay or litigation.

H.R. 3403 also requires the development of a national plan to ensure that the 911 system continues to evolve. It is significant that the plan will include the participation of first responders, including the emergency communications professionals maintaining and using the system. It is also important that the plan will address the needs of the disabilities community when they use emergency communications. I look forward to reviewing the results of this work so we can begin to move to the next generation of emergency communications.

I am disappointed that the Senate stripped out one provision of the House-passed version of this legislation that protected proprietary customer information. This provision prohibited a carrier from using the customer information that other carriers are required to provide for 911 databases for any purpose other than emergency communications. I heard no rational argument against the policy underlying this provision. Nevertheless, in the interest of ensuring that this legislation be enacted swiftly, I will support the bill as passed by the Senate. I intend, however, to take this matter up again in the future. We owe it to consumers to ensure that their emergency communications system does not become a playground for competitive shenanigans.

H.R. 3403 is a forward-looking bill that ensures that consumers using VoIP service are able to access 911 as easily as consumers using wireline or wireless services. Each of its elements—giving VoIP providers access to the components they need to provide 911 service; extending to VoIP providers, public safety officials, and end users the liability protections currently afforded to wireline and wireless services; and requiring a plan for the continued evolution of the emergency communications system—is a worthy victory for all consumers. I commend Representative GORDON for his years of dedication to this important issue and hail this success, from which all Americans will reap benefits for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO A GREAT COMPOSER, IRVING BURGIE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the amazing accomplishments of one of America's greatest composers, Irving Burgie; and to enter into the RECORD an appreciation by Tony Best from New York CaribNews for the week ending June 3, 2008, titled "Hailed Irving Burgie with Honorary Doctorate, Tribute to Composer of Some of the World's Most Memorable Music."

Mr. Burgie is most known for his work with Harry Belafonte for whom he composed 34 songs between 1955 and 1960. He composed 8 of the 11 songs on Belafonte's Calypso album, which was number 1 on the Billboard Charts for 32 weeks and remained on the charts for nearly 2 years. "Calypso" was the first album of any kind to sell over a million copies, thus making Burgie and Belafonte one of the most successful singer-writer collaborations in recorded music history.

Growing up in the West Indian section of Brooklyn, Mr. Burgie became interested in music of other cultures in his travels as a soldier in World War II. He enrolled in the Julliard School of Music, developing a broad knowledge of song literature. His songs not only changed the culture of music but changed the way people taught their children about music. The article describes his music, as music "that brings hope and puts smiles on faces of people across the globe." Mr. Burgie has left a lasting mark on music for many generations.

In addition to his outstanding musical career achievements, Mr. Burgie has been very generous in his philanthropic efforts to improve the lives of students interested in pursuing a career in music. Mr. Burgie has dedicated his life to making the world a better place through his artistic and charitable efforts and he is truly deserving of the honorary doctorate presented to him by St. John's University.

[From the Caribnews, June 3, 2008]

IRVING BURGIE HAILED WITH HONORARY
DOCTORATE
(By Tony Best)

"Concrete examples of committed lives."

The Rev. John Kettleberger, St. John's University's Director of Residence Ministry was describing two outstanding public figures in the United States, Irving Burgie, composer of some of the world's most memorable music and Sister Anthony Barczykowski, Executive Director of Community Service for the Catholic Church's Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Both the composer, an artiste with strong Brooklyn and Caribbean roots, and Sister Barczykowski, whose work in New Orleans after the Hurricane Katrina disaster "brought hope" to the survivors of the floods and gale force winds that left thousands homeless were hailed before an audience of at least 10,000 students, faculty, parents, relatives and friends of the 2008 graduating class.

Each was presented with honorary doctorates of Humane Letters and they were praised for their "commitment to service" to others and for the way they channeled their energies and outstanding talents for the good of humanity.

Actually, the Rev. Kettleberger spoke about the two honorees as he delivered the invocation at the beginning of the 138th commencement exercises at one of America's leading Catholic schools of higher learning. With almost 3,000 students graduating with Bachelor's, Master's and doctorates, the afternoon of pomp, ceremony and stirring commencement addresses by the Rev. Dr. Donald Harrington, St. John's President, and Whitney Coleman, a graduating senior of the College of Liberal Arts and Science, who spoke on behalf of all the students, was underscored by the smiling faces and tears of joy that flowed freely as proud parents and some of the students themselves were affected by the emotions of the moment. "It was truly an emotional moment for me," Burgie said afterwards as he reflected on the tears he shed on being lauded and presented the doctorate from the University's Presi-

dent. "I was thinking of my wife who died recently, about the pleasure she would have enjoyed if she were present on this occasion," he said.

"But it was also emotional to have my sons, their wives and a granddaughter to share this honor with me,"

Burgie, who had previously received an honorary doctorate from the University of the West Indies, was described by Dr. Julia Upton, Provost of St. John's, as a "man who used his special gifts to lift the hearts" and the "spirits" of tens of millions of people around the world.

As she explained it, Burgie, the son of a West Indian mother used his music to "bring hope" and put "smiles" on the faces of people across the globe, often at times of great challenges. Indeed, few artistes anywhere had enhanced the national and global landscapes with their music like Burgie, whose songs, among them "Day-O," "Island in the Sun," "Mary's Boy-Child," and "Angelina," were made famous by Harry Belafonte, Dr. Upton said. They sold more than 100 millions in the 50-plus years since they first came onto the musical scene in the 1950s. Most of the songs on the Harry Belafonte album, Calypso, propelled the collection to the top spot on the Billboard Charts and enabled it to become the first album in the history of recorded music to sell a million copies. But he wasn't simply recognized for his artistic triumphs. Burgie, who was recently inducted into the Song writers Hall of Fame in the United States was heralded for the more than \$100,000 in scholarships he gave over 25 years to Bajan youth to encourage their writing skills and the musical scholarship endowed by ASCAP to help American students pursue their musical careers.

In essence, then, both Sister Anthony and Burgie had devoted their lives to the task of making the world a better place and proof of their success can be seen in the hope they had inspired in successive generations, St. John's University stated.

The emphasis on "hope" was at the core of the President's commencement address. He pinpointed many of the serious challenges the world was facing and they ranged from the global economic downturn; starvation in Africa; and the global food crisis to the divisive presidential campaign in the United States; and the devastating wars in Iraq and Afghanistan which have cost more than 4,000 Americans and trillions of dollars in U.S. and British taxpayer money.

But he wasn't disheartened by the monumental task at hand.

Indeed, the President said he was "optimistic" because of the many, "wonderful people" who had worked hard to transform society, Burgie and Sister Anthony included, and because of the young people, especially the members of the graduating class who were prepared to assume their roles in society.

Coleman, the Black student who spoke for the entire class, emphasized the importance of "giving back" and the need for individuals and society to "re-fuel" when their tanks were running low. Just as important was the need to put the "exemplary education" the students had received at St. John's to produce. It was, she asserted, a kind of "roadmap" that would guide them at the beginning of life's journey and would help them along the way. At the end of the ceremonies, Burgie who was born and grew up in Brooklyn but whose music has made him a world citizen summed up the situation: "It was simply wonderful. I thank St. John's for the honor."